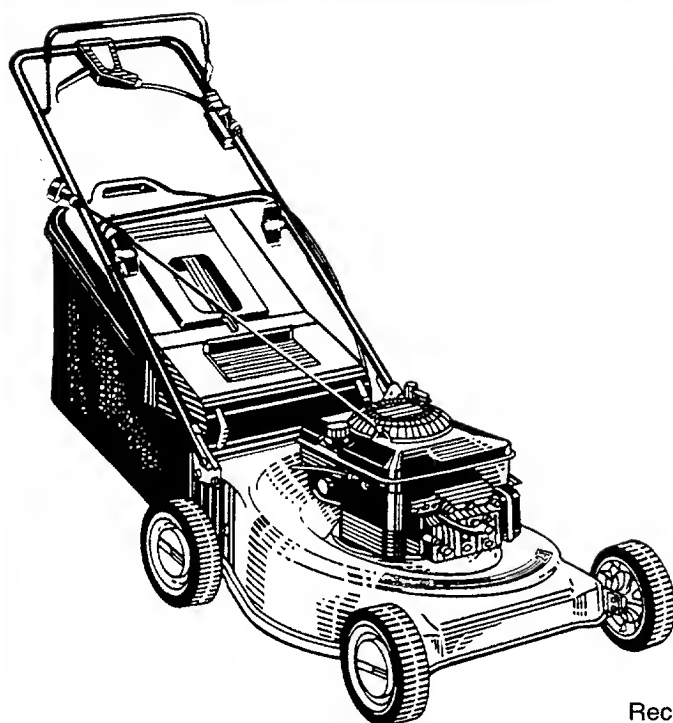


# OWNER'S GUIDE

• SET-UP • OPERATION • MAINTENANCE • PARTS •



## 21" ROTARY MOWERS

**Model Numbers**  
**123-460A000**  
**thru**  
**123-479H000**

### IMPORTANT!

Record the **Model No.** and **Mfg. Code** which appear on your unit in the space below. You **must** have these numbers, along with the date of purchase, in order to receive warranty or service.

#### MEETS ANSI SAFETY STANDARDS

MODEL NO.

MFG. CODE

**Important:**  
**Read Safety Rules**  
**and Instructions Carefully**



Made  
in  
AMERICA


**WARNING:** This unit is equipped with an internal combustion engine and should not be used on or near any unimproved forest-covered, brush-covered or grass-covered land unless the engine's exhaust system is equipped with a spark arrester meeting applicable local or state laws (if any). If a spark arrester is used, it should be maintained in effective working order by the operator.

In the State of California the above is required by law (Section 4442 of the California Public Resources Code). Other states may have similar laws. Federal laws apply on federal lands. A spark arrester for the muffler is available through your nearest engine authorized service dealer or contact MTD PRODUCTS INC, P.O. Box 368022, Cleveland, Ohio 44136-9722.

# IMPORTANT

## SAFE OPERATION PRACTICES



THIS SYMBOL POINTS OUT IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS WHICH, IF NOT FOLLOWED, COULD ENDANGER THE PERSONAL SAFETY AND/OR PROPERTY OF YOURSELF AND OTHERS. READ AND FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS IN THIS MANUAL BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO OPERATE YOUR LAWN MOWER. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE INSTRUCTIONS MAY RESULT IN PERSONAL INJURY. WHEN YOU SEE THIS SYMBOL—  **HEED ITS WARNING.**



**DANGER:** Your lawn mower was built to be operated according to the rules for safe operation in this manual. As with any type of power equipment, carelessness or error on the part of the operator can result in serious injury. If you violate any of these rules, you may cause serious injury to yourself or others.

### TRAINING



1. Read this owner's guide carefully in its entirety before attempting to assemble or operate this machine. Be completely familiar with the controls and the proper use of this machine before operating it. Keep this manual in a safe place for future and regular reference and for ordering replacement parts.
2. Your rotary mower is a precision piece of power equipment, not a plaything. Therefore, exercise extreme caution at all times. Your unit has been designed to perform one job: to mow grass. Do not use it for any other purpose.
3. Never allow children under 14 years old to operate a power mower. Children 14 years old and over should only operate mower under close parental supervision. Only persons well acquainted with these rules of safe operation should be allowed to use your mower.
4. Keep the area of operation clear of all persons, particularly small children and pets. Stop engine when they are in the vicinity of your mower to help prevent blade contact or thrown object injury. Although the area of operation should be completely cleared of foreign objects, an object may have been overlooked and could be accidentally thrown by the mower in any direction and cause serious personal injury to the operator or any others allowed in the area.

### PREPARATION



1. Thoroughly inspect the area where the equipment is to be used. Remove all stones, sticks, wire, bones and other foreign objects which could be picked up and thrown by the mower in any direction and cause serious personal injury to the operator or any others allowed in the area. Plan your moving pattern to avoid discharge of material toward roads, sidewalks, bystanders and the like.
2. Always wear safety glasses or eye shields during operation or while performing an adjustment or repair, to protect eyes from foreign objects that may be thrown from the machine in any direction.
3. Wear sturdy, rough-soled work shoes and close-fitting slacks and shirts. Shirts and pants that cover the arms and legs and steel-toed shoes are recommended. Do not wear loose fitting clothes or jewelry. They can be caught in moving parts. Never operate a unit in bare feet, sandals, or sneakers.
4. Before working with gasoline, extinguish all cigarettes, cigars, pipes and other sources of ignition. Check the fuel level before starting the engine. Gasoline is an extremely flammable fuel. Do not fill the gasoline tank indoors, while the engine is running, or until engine has been allowed to cool for at least two minutes after running. Replace gasoline cap securely and wipe off any spilled gasoline before starting the engine as it may cause a fire or explosion.
5. Disengage the self-propelled mechanism or drive clutch on units so equipped before starting the engine.
6. The blade control handle is a safety device. Never attempt to bypass its operation. Doing so makes the safety device inoperative and may result in personal injury through contact with the rotating blade. The blade control handle must operate easily in both directions and automatically return to the disengaged position when released.
7. Never attempt to make a wheel or cutting height adjustment while the engine is running.
8. Never operate the mower in wet grass. Always be sure of your footing. A slip and fall can cause serious personal injury. Keep a firm hold on the handle and walk, never run. Mow only in daylight or in good artificial light.

9. For your safety, use the slope gauge included as part of this manual to measure slopes before operating this unit on a sloped or hilly area. If the slope is greater than 15° as shown on the slope gauge, do not operate this unit on that area or serious injury could result.



### OPERATION

1. Do not change the engine governor settings or overspeed the engine. Excessive engine speeds are dangerous.
2. Do not put hands or feet near or under rotating parts. Keep clear of the discharge opening at all times as the rotating blade can cause injury.
3. Stop the blade when crossing gravel drives, walks or roads.
4. After striking a foreign object, stop the engine, remove the wire from the spark plug, and thoroughly inspect the mower for any damage. Repair the damage before restarting and operating the mower.
5. If the equipment should start to vibrate abnormally, stop the engine and check immediately for the cause. Vibration is generally a warning of trouble.
6. Shut the engine off and wait until the blade comes to a complete stop before removing the grass catcher or unclogging the chute. The cutting blade continues to rotate for a few seconds after the engine is shut off. Never place any part of the body in the blade area until you are sure the blade has stopped rotating.
7. Before cleaning, repairing or inspecting, make certain the blade and all moving parts have stopped. Disconnect the spark plug wire, and keep the wire away from the spark plug to prevent accidental starting.
8. Do not run the engine indoors.
9. Never cut grass by pulling mower toward you. Mow across the face of slopes, never up-and-down. Exercise extreme caution when changing direction on slopes. Do not mow excessively steep slopes. Always be sure of your footing. A slip and fall can cause serious personal injury.
10. Never operate mower without proper guards, plates or other safety protective devices in place.
11. Muffler and engine become hot and can cause a burn. Do not touch.
12. Do not operate this mower with the chute door open, unless the complete grass catcher or chute deflector is properly mounted on the mower.



### MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE

1. Check the blade and engine mounting bolts at frequent intervals for proper tightness. Also visually inspect blade for damage (e.g. bent, cracked). Replace with blade which meets original equipment specifications.
2. Keep all nuts, bolts, and screws tight to be sure the equipment is in safe working condition.
3. Never store the mower with gasoline in the tank or gas containers inside of a building where fumes may reach an open flame or spark (e.g. gas hot water heater). Allow the engine to cool before storing in any enclosure.
4. To reduce fire hazard, keep the engine free of grass, leaves and excessive oil.
5. Check the grass catcher bag frequently for wear or deterioration. Replace a worn or damaged bag immediately. For safety protection, replace only with new bag meeting original equipment specifications.

# SET-UP INSTRUCTIONS

**IMPORTANT:** This unit is shipped **WITHOUT GASOLINE** or **OIL** in the engine. Be certain to service engine with gasoline and oil before operating your mower.

**NOTE:** Reference to right or left hand side of the mower is observed from the operating position.

## TO REMOVE MOWER FROM CARTON

Remove the carton inserts (if any). Remove any loose parts which may be in the carton. Lift the mower from the carton, or cut the corners of the carton and roll the mower out.

## HOW TO SET-UP YOUR LAWN MOWER

(Refer to Figure 1)

1. Disconnect the spark plug wire and move it away from the spark plug.
2. Remove any cardboard pieces which may be between the upper and lower handles for shipping purposes. If there is any packaging (plastic or cardboard) around the upper handle, remove it.
3. Pull up and back on the upper handle to raise the handle into the operating position. Make certain

the lower handle is seated securely into the handle mounting brackets. Tighten the hand knobs on each side of the handle.

**NOTE:** Your mower is shipped with the handle in the higher height position. If you wish to lower the height of the handle, refer to the Adjustment Section at this time.

4. Remove the hairpin clips from the outer hole in the weld pins on the handle mounting brackets. Place the hairpin clips in the **inner** hole.
5. The rope guide and wing nut are attached to the starter rope, on top of the engine. Remove the wing nut from rope guide. Remove the rope guide from the starter rope.
6. With the spark plug wire disconnected and grounded, hold the blade control handle against the upper handle, and pull the starter rope out of the engine. Hold the rope guide as shown so the opening in the rope guide is toward the front of mower. Slip the rope guide around the starter rope and into the right side of upper handle using the hole shown. Secure using the wing nut.
7. Make certain **all** nuts and bolts are tightened securely.

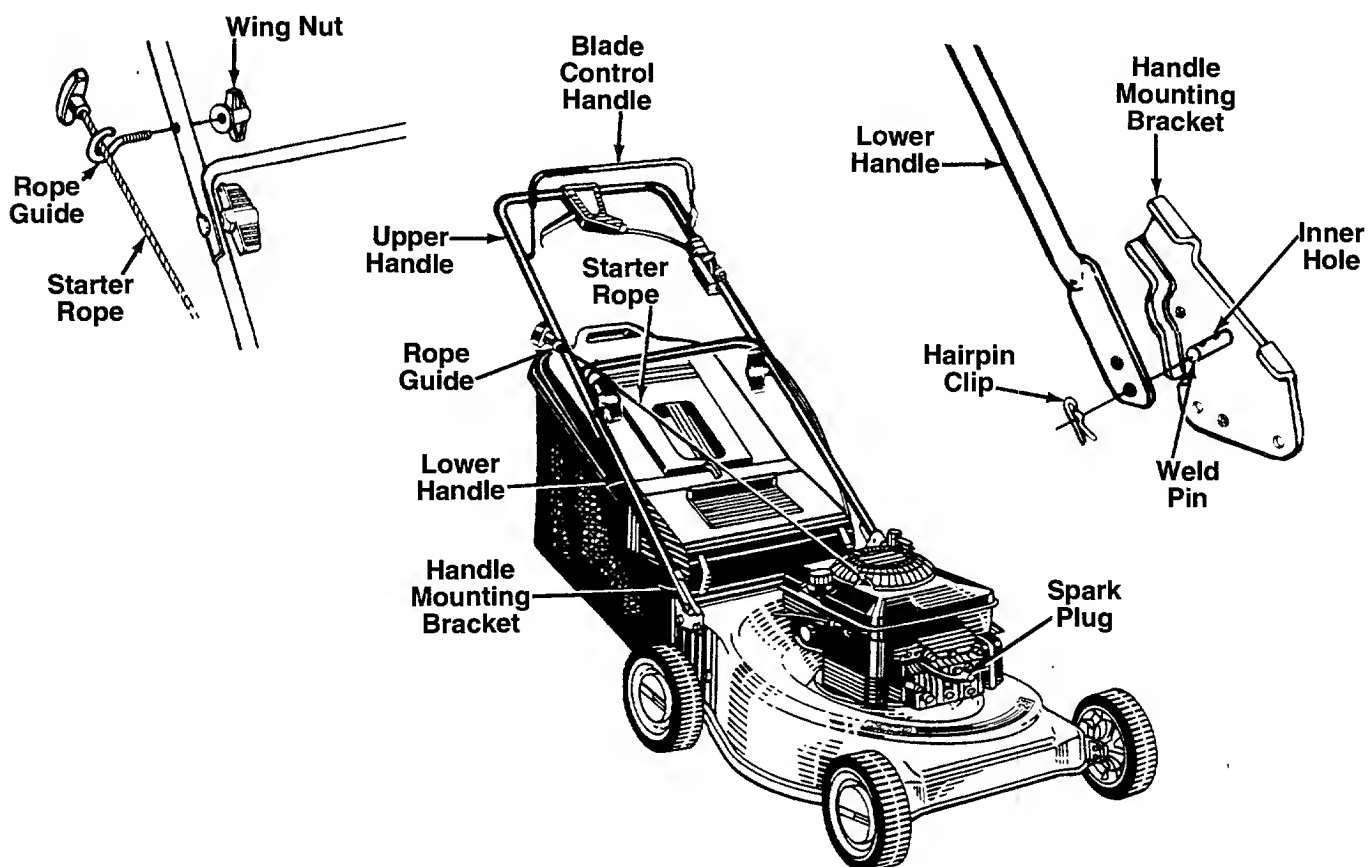


FIGURE 1.

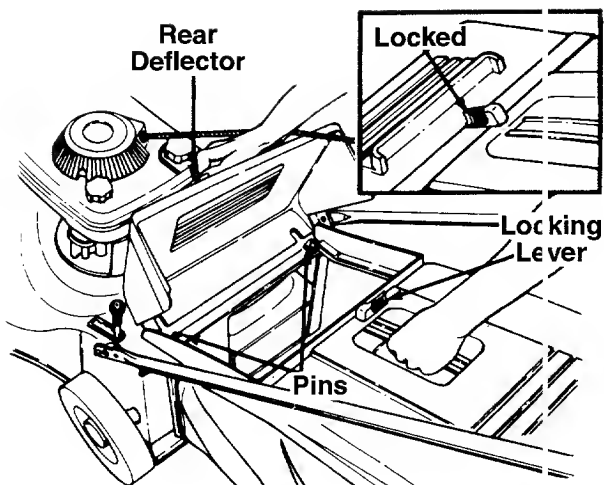


FIGURE 2.

### ATTACHING GRASS CATCHER TO MOWER

Lift the rear deflector on the mower. Place the loops on the grass catcher frame over the pins on the back of the mower. See figure 2. Release the rear deflector. Turn the locking lever to the locked position to secure the rear deflector (hardtop grass bags only).

← See figure 2, inset.

To remove the grass catcher, turn the locking lever to the unlocked position and lift the rear deflector on the mower. Lift the grass catcher up, over the pins on the back of the mower. Release the deflector.

## CONTROLS

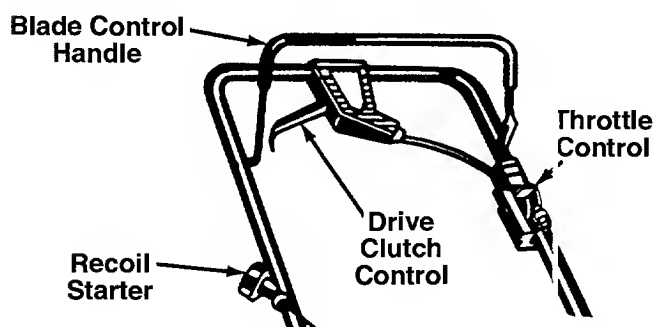


FIGURE 3.

### BLADE CONTROL HANDLE



**WARNING:** This control mechanism is a safety device. Never attempt to bypass its operations.

The blade control handle is located on the upper handle of the mower. See figure 3. The blade control handle must be depressed in order to operate the unit. Release the blade control handle to stop the engine and blade.



**WARNING:** The blade will be rotating whenever the engine is running.

### THROTTLE CONTROL

The throttle control is located on the side of the upper handle. It is used to regulate the engine speed.



**WARNING:** The throttle control cannot be used to stop the engine.

### RECOIL STARTER

The recoil starter handle is attached to the handle. See figure 3. Stand behind the unit in the operating position to start the unit.

### DRIVE CLUTCH CONTROL

Squeezing the drive clutch control engages the drive mechanism to the rear wheels. Releasing the clutch control stops the rear wheels from driving. Release the drive clutch control to slow down when negotiating an obstacle, making a turn or stopping. See figure 3.

## OPERATION



FIGURE 4.

Keep hands and feet away from the chute area on cutting deck. See figure 4.

The operation of any lawn mower can result in foreign objects being thrown into the eyes, which can result in severe eye damage. Always wear safety glasses or eye shields. We recommend wide vision safety mask for over spectacles or standard safety glasses.



**NOTE:** For shipping purposes your mower is set with the wheels in a low cutting height position. For best results raise the cutting position until it is determined which height is best for your lawn. See cutting height adjustment section.

### GAS AND OIL FILL-UP

Service the engine with gasoline and oil as instructed in the separate engine manual packed with your mower. Read instructions carefully.



**WARNING:** Never fill fuel tank indoors, with engine running or until the engine has been allowed to cool for at least two minutes after running.

### BEFORE STARTING

1. Attach spark plug wire to spark plug. If unit is equipped with a rubber boot over the end of the spark plug wire, make certain the metal loop on the end of the spark plug wire (inside the rubber boot) is fastened securely over the metal tip on the spark plug. See figure 5.

Metal Loop  
on Spark  
Plug Wire

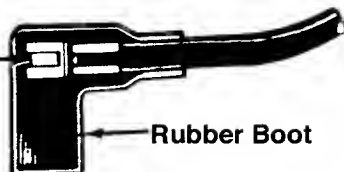


FIGURE 5.

2. Before each use, check for proper drive clutch operation by performing the following before starting the engine:

With the drive clutch control released, push mower forward. It should move freely. Pull mower backward. It should move with only a small amount of resistance.

If it does not and the rear wheels tend to lock up, the clutch may not be releasing completely. Do not start the engine until corrections have been made. Check the control cable for severe bend, kinks and binding, or grass build-up around the belt. Correct and adjust as required. Refer to instructions under "Drive Clutch Control Adjustment" in Adjustment Section for loosening the drive belt.

### TO START ENGINE AND ENGAGE BLADE



**WARNING:** When starting the unit for the first time, face the mower against a solid object such as a wall, fence, etc. Start the unit, and if it shows any signs of motion with the drive clutch control disengaged, shut the engine off immediately.

1. Move throttle control lever all the way forward.
2. If engine is equipped with a primer, prime engine as instructed in the separate engine manual packed with your unit.
3. Standing behind the unit, depress the blade control handle and hold it against the upper handle as shown. See figure 6.
4. Grasp starter handle (see figure 6) and pull rope out slowly until engine reaches start of compression cycle (rope will pull slightly harder at this point). Let the rope rewind slowly.
5. Pull rope with a rapid, continuous, full arm stroke. Keep a firm grip on start handle. Return it slowly to the rope guide.
6. After engine starts, move throttle control to desired engine speed.

**NOTE:** If any problems are encountered, refer to the Trouble Shooting Guide on page 10.

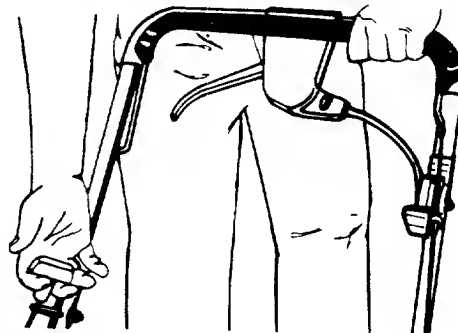


FIGURE 6.

## TO STOP ENGINE AND BLADE

1. Move throttle control lever to SLOW position.
2. Release the blade control handle to stop the engine and blade.



**WARNING:** The blade continues to rotate for a few seconds after the engine is shut off.

3. Disconnect the spark plug wire and ground it against the engine to prevent accidental starting while equipment is unattended.

## USING YOUR ROTARY MOWER



**WARNING:** Never operate your unit without either the rear deflector or entire grass catcher assembly in place.

Be sure that lawn is clear of stones, sticks, wire, or other objects which could damage lawn mower or engine. Such objects could be accidentally thrown by the mower in any direction and cause serious personal injury to the operator and others.

For the best results, do not cut wet grass because it tends to stick to the underside of the mower, preventing proper discharge of grass clippings, and could cause you to slip and fall. New grass, thick grass or wet grass may require a narrower cut. Blade speed should be adjusted to the condition of the lawn.

**For a healthy lawn, always cut off one-third or less of the total length of the grass.** Lawn should be cut in the fall as long as there is growth.

This mower is designed to be operated at full throttle to give you the best cut and do the most effective job of bagging the cut grass.



**WARNING:** If you strike a foreign object, stop the engine. Remove wire from spark plug, thoroughly inspect the mower for any damage, and repair the damage before restarting and operating the mower. Extensive vibration of the mower during operation is an indication of damage. The unit should be promptly inspected and repaired.

## ADJUSTMENTS



**WARNING:** Do not at any time make any adjustment to lawn mower without first stopping engine and disconnecting spark plug wire.

### CUTTING HEIGHT ADJUSTMENT

The height adjustment handle is located on the left side of the deck. The handle may be placed in one of nine cutting height positions. Push the handle to the left and then either forward to lower the cutting height or backward to raise the cutting height. See figure 7.

For rough or uneven lawns, move the height adjustment handle to a position which will give a higher cutting height.

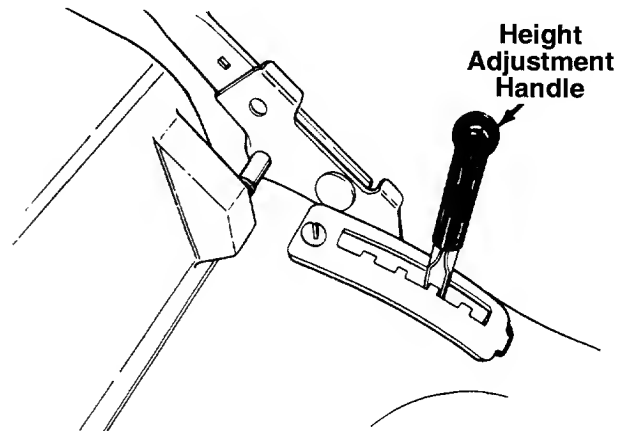


FIGURE 7.

### HANDLE HEIGHT ADJUSTMENT

Your mower is shipped with the handle in the higher height position. To lower the handle height, proceed as follows.

1. Remove the starter rope from the rope guide.
2. Remove the upper handle by removing the hand knobs and carriage bolts. Lay the upper handle out of the way, being careful not to bend or kink the cables.
3. Remove the hairpin clips from the weld pins on the handle brackets. Press outward on the legs of the lower handle, and remove it from the mower.
4. Turn the lower handle around so the flat on the bottom is facing upward as shown in figure 8. Reassemble, placing the bottom holes in the handle over the weld pins in the handle mounting bracket.
5. Reassemble the upper handle.
6. Place the hairpin clips in the inner holes in the weld pins and attach the starter rope as instructed in the Set-Up Instructions.

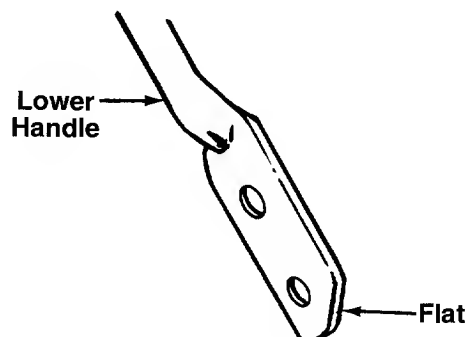


FIGURE 8.

## DRIVE CLUTCH CONTROL ADJUSTMENT

Use the adjustment wheel located in the clutch control housing to tighten the drive belt if mower does not self-propel with the drive clutch control engaged, or if drive belt is slipping (unit hesitates while engine maintains the same speed). See figure 9.

In addition, the adjustment wheel may also be used to determine the position in which the drive clutch control is engaged. If it is more comfortable to have the drive engaged with the lever further away from the handle, tighten the drive belt.

Make certain to retest the unit for neutral as instructed in the Operation Section. Move the adjustment wheel in the opposite direction to loosen the drive belt if necessary.

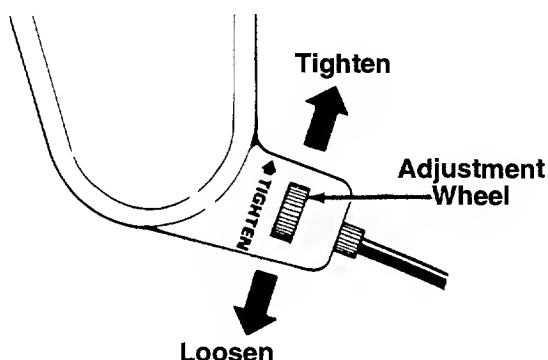


FIGURE 9.

## THROTTLE CONTROL ADJUSTMENT

If the throttle control requires adjustment or if it has been replaced, adjust the throttle control as follows.

1. Remove the screw shown in figure 10A. Remove the cable clamp from the cable.

**NOTE:** If you have a Tecumseh engine, simply loosen the screw shown in figure 10B so the cable will move freely beneath the clamp. It is not necessary to remove the screw and clamp completely.

2. Push the throttle control lever on the handle all the way forward as far as it will go, then back it off one "click". Make certain the throttle control lever remains in this position.
3. Push the control lever on the engine as far toward the rear of the engine as it will go. Secure the cable in this position with the cable clamp and screw.

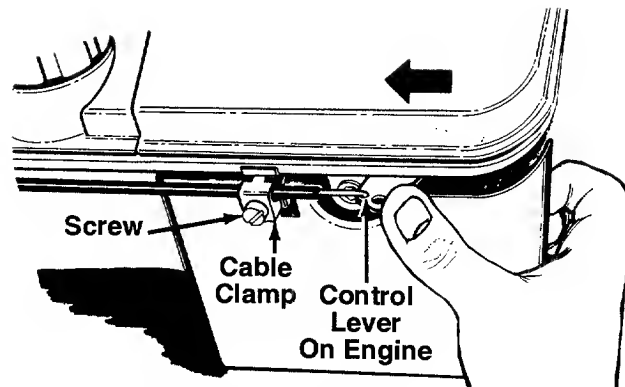


FIGURE 10A.—Briggs & Stratton Quantum Engines

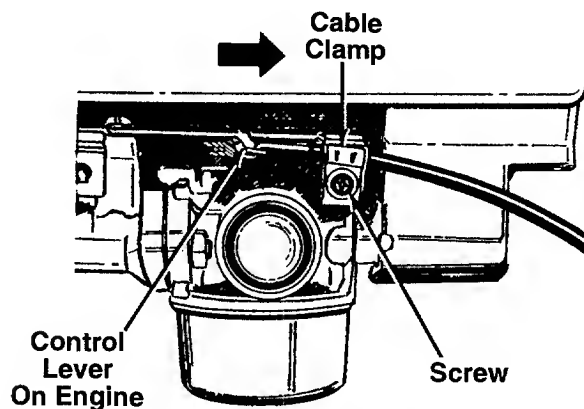


FIGURE 10B.—Tecumseh Engines

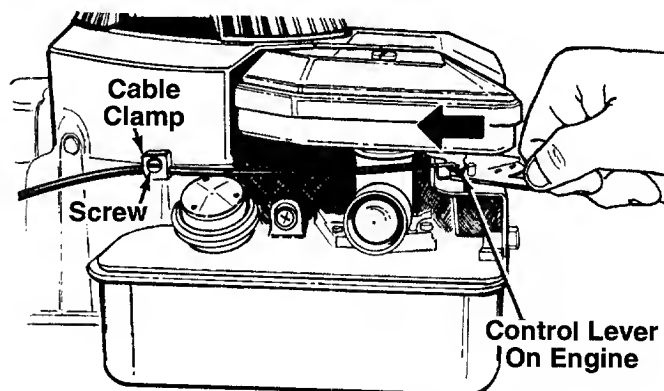


FIGURE 10C.—Briggs & Stratton Sprint and Classic Engines

## CARBURETOR ADJUSTMENTS



**WARNING:** If any adjustments are made to the engine while the engine is running (e.g. carburetor), keep clear of all moving parts. Be careful of heated surfaces and muffler.

Minor carburetor adjustments may be required to compensate for differences in fuel, temperature, altitude and load. To adjust carburetor, refer to the separate engine manual packed with your mower.

**NOTE:** A dirty air cleaner will cause an engine to run rough. Be certain air cleaner is clean and attached to the carburetor before adjusting carburetor.

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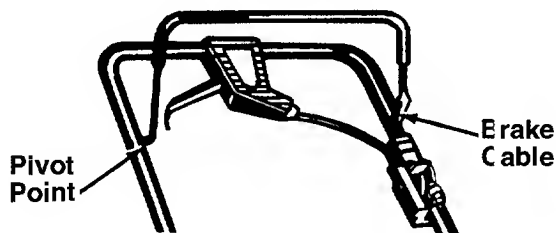
## LUBRICATION

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**WARNING:** Always stop engine and disconnect spark plug wire before cleaning, lubricating or doing any kind of work on lawn mower.

**Blade Control**—Lubricate the pivot points on the blade control handle and the brake cable at least once a season with light oil. See figure 11. The blade control must operate freely in both directions.



**FIGURE 11.**

**Discharge Chute Deflector**—The torsion spring and pivot point should be lubricated periodically with light oil to prevent any rust or binding. Deflector must work freely.

**Wheels**—Mower may be provided with ball bearing wheels. Lubricate at least once a season with light oil. Also, if the wheels are removed for any reason, lubricate the surface of the axle bolt and the inner surface of the wheel with light oil. A 4 oz. plastic bottle of light oil lubricant is available. Order part number 737-0170. Engine oil may also be used.

**Engine**—Follow engine manual for lubrication instructions.

**Transmission**—The transmission is pre-lubricated and sealed at the factory. It does not require checking. If disassembled for any reason, fill with 2 ounces of Alvania grease, part number 737-0168.

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## MAINTENANCE

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**WARNING:** Be sure to disconnect and ground the spark plug wire before performing any repairs or maintenance.

**NOTE:** When tipping the unit, empty the fuel tank and keep engine spark plug or muffler side up.

### TROUBLE SHOOTING

Refer to page 10 of this manual for trouble shooting information.

### CUTTING BLADE

When removing the cutting blade for sharpening or replacement, protect hands by using heavy gloves or a rag to grasp the cutting blade. Remove the bolt and bell washer which hold the blade and adapter to the engine crankshaft. Remove the blade and adapter from the crankshaft.

If the blade or blade adapter needs replacing, remove the two small bolts, lock washers and nuts which hold the blade to the adapter.



**WARNING:** Periodically inspect the blade adapter for cracks, especially if you strike a foreign object. Replace when necessary.

When sharpening the blade, follow the original angle of grind as a guide. It is **extremely important** that each cutting edge receives an equal amount of grinding to prevent an unbalanced blade. An unbalanced blade will cause excessive vibration when rotating at high speeds, may cause damage to the mower and could break, causing personal injury.

It is recommended that the blade always be removed from the adapter for the best test of balance.

The blade can be tested by balancing it on a round shaft screwdriver. Remove metal from the heavy side until it balances evenly.

Before reassembling the blade and the blade adapter to the unit, lubricate the engine crankshaft and the inner surface of the blade adapter with light oil. Lubricating the bolt holes, bolts and inner surface of the nuts with light oil is also recommended. A 4 oz. plastic bottle of light oil lubricant is available. Order part number 737-0170. Engine oil may also be used.

When replacing the blade, be sure to install the blade with the side of the blade marked "Bottom" (or with part number) facing the ground when the mower is in the operating position.

### Blade Mounting Torque

Center Bolt: 450 in. lbs. min., 600 in. lbs. max.

Blade Adapter Bolts: 200 in. lbs. min., 350 in. lbs. max.

To insure safe operation of your unit, all nuts and bolts must be checked periodically for correct tightness.

### DECK

The underside of the mower deck should be cleaned after each use to prevent a buildup of grass clippings, leaves, dirt or other matter. If this debris is allowed to accumulate, it will invite rust and corrosion, and may cause an uneven discharge of grass clippings at the next cutting.



The deck may be cleaned by tilting the mower and scraping clean with a suitable tool (make certain the spark plug wire is disconnected).

## ENGINE

**Refer to the separate engine manual for engine maintenance instructions.**

Maintain engine oil as instructed in the separate engine manual packed with your unit. Read and follow instructions carefully.

Service **air cleaner** every 25 hours under normal conditions. Clean every few hours under extremely dusty conditions. Poor engine performance and flooding usually indicates that the air cleaner should be serviced. To service the air cleaner, refer to the separate engine manual packed with your unit.

The **spark plug** should be cleaned and the gap reset once a season. Spark plug replacement is recommended at the start of each mowing season; check engine manual for correct plug type and gap specifications.

**Clean the engine** regularly with a cloth or brush. Keep the cooling system (blower housing area) clean to permit proper air circulation which is essential to engine performance and life. Be certain to remove all grass, dirt and combustible debris from muffler area.

## BELT REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT

1. Disconnect the spark plug wire and ground it against the engine.
2. Drain the fuel tank or place a piece of plastic beneath the cap to prevent gasoline leakage.
3. Tip the mower back on its handle. Block securely.
4. Remove the rear belt baffle by removing the lock washer and hex nut shown in figure 12. Then remove one Torx bolt, using a #27 Torx driver. A 9/64" Allen wrench may also be used. Then remove one carriage bolt, lock washer and nut as shown.

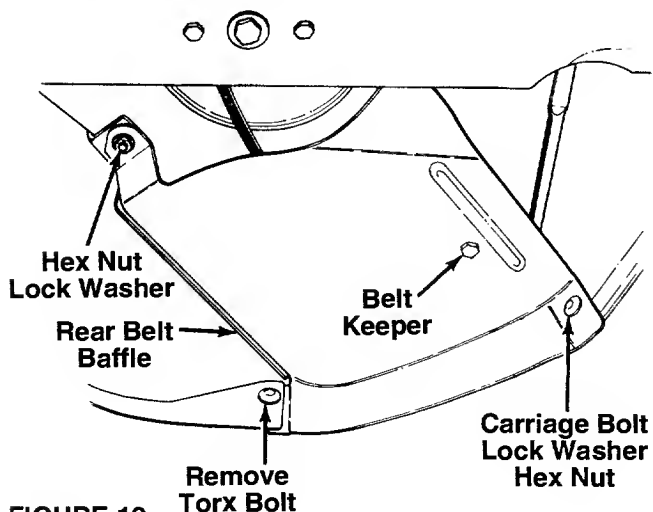


FIGURE 12.

5. Roll the belt off the transmission pulley. Remove the belt from between the idler pulley and belt guard. See figure 13.
6. Remove the belt from the pulley on the engine crankshaft, and pull it over the blade.

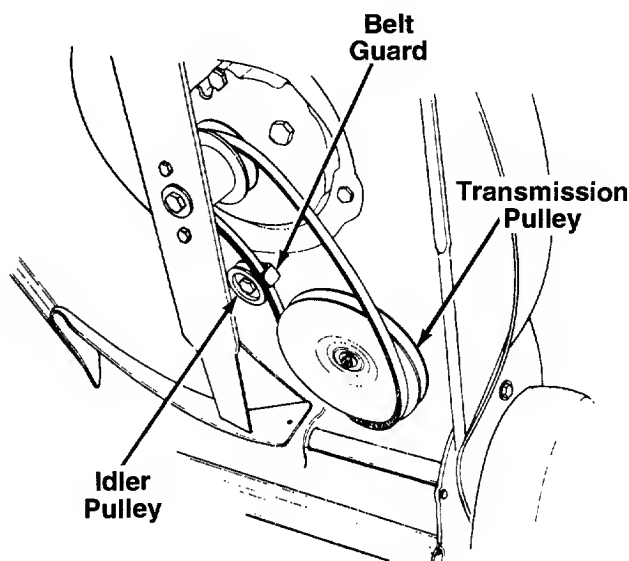


FIGURE 13.

7. Reassemble in reverse order with the new belt.

**NOTE:** When reassembling the rear belt baffle, make certain the belt keeper is outside of the belt, and the edge of the rear belt baffle is between the rear chute baffle and the rear panel as shown in figure 12. Make certain to tighten all nuts and bolts securely. If plastic was placed under the gas cap, be certain to remove it.

## OFF-SEASON STORAGE

The following steps should be taken to prepare lawn mower for storage.

1. Clean and lubricate mower thoroughly as described in the lubrication instructions.
2. Refer to engine manual for correct engine storage instructions.
3. Coat mower's cutting blade with chassis grease to prevent rusting.
4. Store mower in a dry, clean area. Do not store next to corrosive materials, such as fertilizer.

**NOTE:** When storing any type of power equipment in an unventilated or metal storage shed, care should be taken to rust-proof the equipment. Using a light oil or silicone, coat the equipment, especially cables and all moving parts.

# TROUBLE SHOOTING GUIDE

Trouble	Possible Cause(s)	Corrective Action
Engine fails to start	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Blade control handle disengaged.</li> <li>2. Spark plug wire disconnected.</li> <li>3. Throttle control lever not in CHOKE or START position.</li> <li>4. Fuel tank empty, or stale fuel.</li> <li>5. Blocked fuel line (if so equipped).</li> <li>6. Faulty spark plug.</li> <li>7. Engine flooded.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Engage blade control handle.</li> <li>2. Connect wire to spark plug.</li> <li>3. Move throttle lever to CHOKE or START position.</li> <li>4. Fill tank with clean, fresh gasoline.</li> <li>5. Clean fuel line.</li> <li>6. Clean, adjust gap or replace.</li> <li>7. Remove spark plug, dry the plug, and crank engine with plug removed and throttle in off position. Replace spark plug, connect wire and resume starting procedures.</li> </ol>
Engine runs erratic	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Unit running in CHOKE or START position.</li> <li>2. Spark plug wire loose.</li> <li>3. Blocked fuel line (if so equipped) or stale fuel.</li> <li>4. Vent in gas cap plugged.</li> <li>5. Water or dirt in fuel system.</li> <li>6. Dirty air cleaner.</li> <li>7. Carburetor out of adjustment.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Move throttle lever to FAST position.</li> <li>2. Connect and tighten spark plug wire.</li> <li>3. Clean fuel line; fill tank with clean, fresh gasoline.</li> <li>4. Clear vent.</li> <li>5. Drain fuel tank. Refill with fresh fuel.</li> <li>6. Clean air cleaner.†</li> <li>7. Adjust carburetor.†</li> </ol>
Engine overheats	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Engine oil level low.</li> <li>2. Air flow restricted.</li> <li>3. Carburetor not adjusted properly.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fill crankcase with proper oil.</li> <li>2. Remove blower housing and clean.†</li> <li>3. Adjust carburetor.†</li> </ol>
Occasional skip (hesitates) at high speed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Spark plug gap too close.</li> <li>2. Carburetor idle mixture adjustment improperly set.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adjust gap to .030"</li> <li>2. Adjust carburetor.†</li> </ol>
Idles poorly	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Spark plug fouled, faulty or gap too wide.</li> <li>2. Carburetor improperly adjusted.</li> <li>3. Dirty air cleaner.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reset gap to .030" or replace spark plug.</li> <li>2. Adjust carburetor.†</li> <li>3. Clean air cleaner.†</li> </ol>
Excessive vibration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cutting blade loose or unbalanced.</li> <li>2. Bent cutting blade.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tighten blade and adapter. Balance blade.</li> <li>2. Replace blade.</li> </ol>
Mower will not discharge grass	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Engine speed too low.</li> <li>2. Wet grass.</li> <li>3. Excessively high grass.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Set throttle between 3/4 and full throttle.</li> <li>2. Do not mow when grass is wet; wait until later to cut.</li> <li>3. Mow once at a high cutting height, then mow again at desired height or make a narrower cutting swath (1/2 width).</li> </ol>
Uneven cut	Dull blade.	Sharpen or replace blade.

†Refer to separate engine manual packed with your unit.

Note: For repairs beyond the minor adjustments listed above, contact your local authorized service dealer.

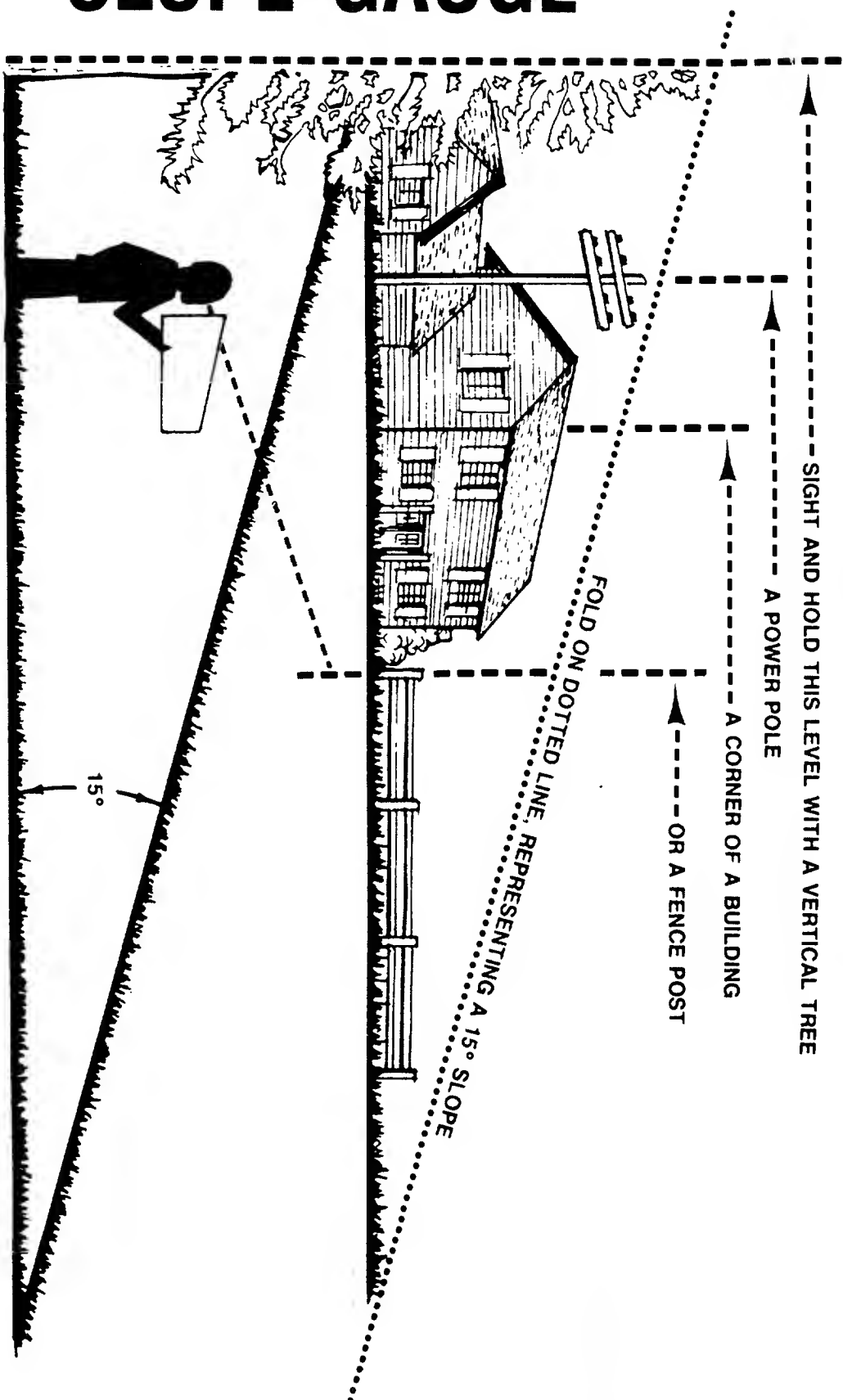
**CODE:** N denotes a **new part** (not previously existing).

**COLOR:** A three digit number is the **color code**. Specify color code if color or finish is important when ordering parts. [i.e., (part no.)-638 for Red Finish]

## Color Codes

436—Radiant Yellow	638—Red
460—Green Flake	640—Green
483—Charcoal Gray	646—CM Blue
498—Yellow	650—Red Metallic
499—Beige	657—Teal
629—Silver Flake	663—Dark Teal
637—Black	

USE THIS PAGE AS A GUIDE TO DETERMINE SLOPES WHERE YOU MAY NOT OPERATE SAFELY.



# SLOPE GAUGE



Do not mow on inclines with a slope in excess of 15 degrees (a rise of approximately 2-1/2 feet every 10 feet). A riding mower could overturn and cause serious injury. If operating a walk-behind mower on such a slope, it is extremely difficult to maintain your footing and you could slip, resulting in serious injury.

Operate RIDING mowers up and down slopes, never across the face of slopes.

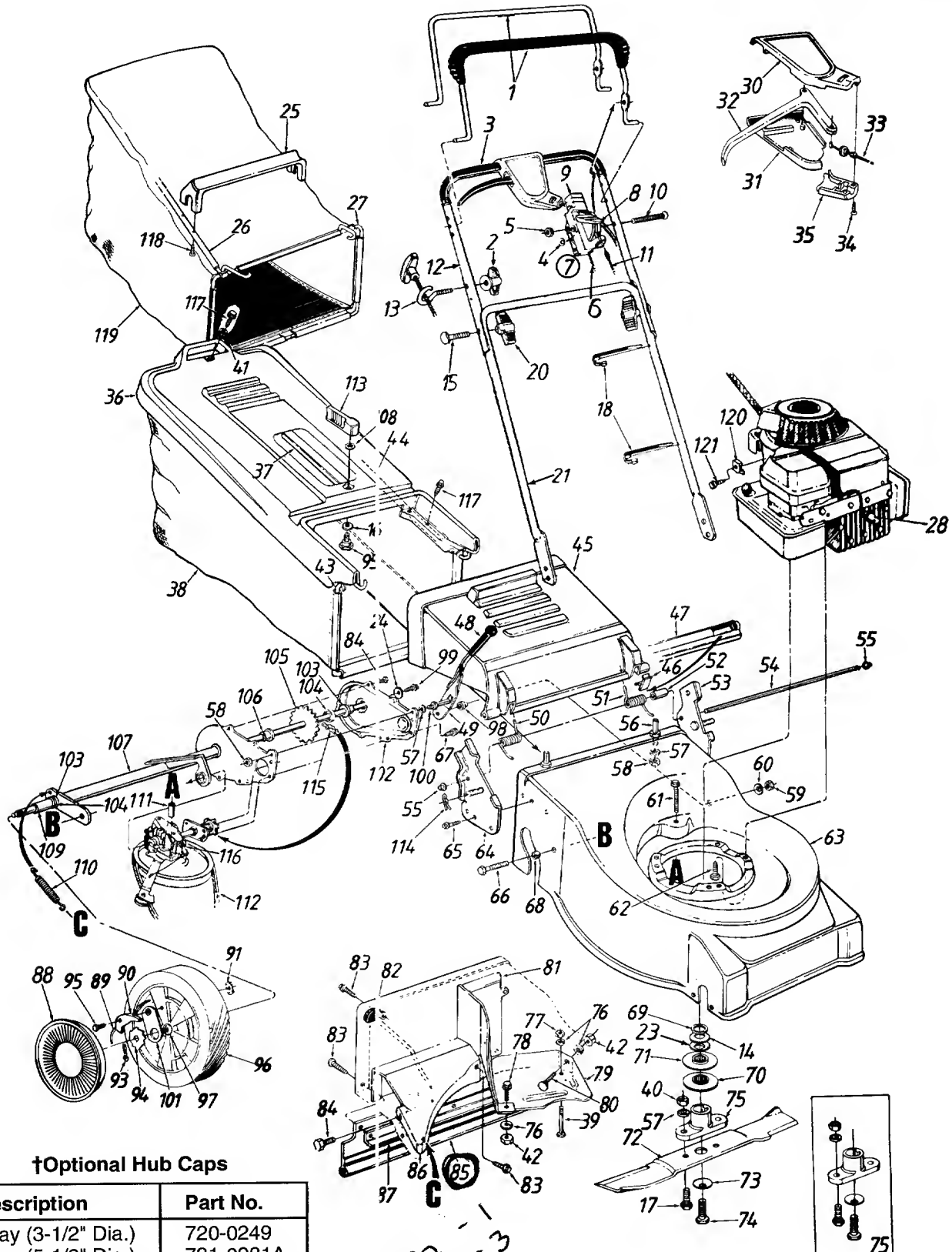
Operate WALK-BEHIND mowers across the face of slope ever up and down slopes.

# Models 460 thru 479

## Grass Catcher Complete:

Hard Top—Model 190-076-000

Soft Top—Model 190-078-000



### †Optional Hub Caps

Description	Part No.
Gray (3-1/2" Dia.)	720-0249
Gray (5-1/2" Dia.)	731-0981A
Beige (5-1/2" Dia.)	731-0982A

F - 731-1482 - 3  
 CUMMINS - 726-0287 - 3  
 12

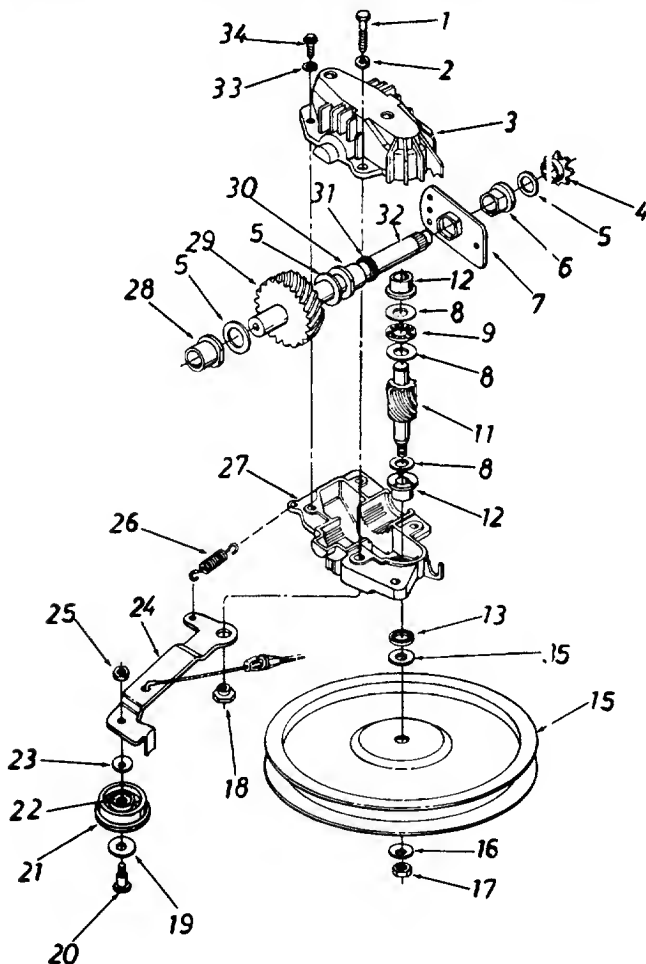
**PARTS LIST FOR MODELS 460 THRU 479 ROTARY MOWERS**

REF. NO.	PART NO.	CODE	DESCRIPTION	REF. NO.	PART NO.	CODE	DESCRIPTION
1	747-0824		Std. Control Handle	53	12297B	N	Handle Brkt. Ass'y.—L.H.
	647-0004		Deluxe Control Handle	54	747-0698B		Hinge Pin 17.75" Lg.
2	712-0397		Wing Nut 1/4-20 Thd.	55	726-0106		Cap Speed Nut
3	720-0225		Foam Grip (Optional)	56	711-0805		Shld. Pin 3/8-24 x 1.43" Lg.
4	736-0501		Spr. Wash. .66" I.D.	57	736-0169		L-Wash. 3/8" I.D.*
5	712-0324		Hex L-Nut 1/4-20 Thd.	58	712-0711		Hex Jam Nut 3/8-24 Thd.
6	746-0843		Throttle Cable—55" (B & S)	59	712-0296		Hex L-Nut 3/8-24 Thd.
	746-0842		Throttle Cable—51" (Tecumseh)	60	736-0105		Bell-Wash. .38" I.D. x .88"
7	811-00185		Throttle Box Comp. (Incl. Ref. 4, 5, 8, 9, 10)	61	710-0778		Hex Wash. Hd. Tap Scr. 1/4-20 x 1.5" Lg.
8	746-0876		Throttle Lever	62	710-0654A		Hex L-Wash. Hd. Scr. 3/8-16 x 1" Lg.
9	746-0875		Throttle Body	63	16997		21" Deck Ass'y.
10	710-0605		Oval C-Sunk Scr.	64	12296B	N	Handle Brkt. Ass'y.—R.H.
11	746-0554		Control Cable—40.5" (B & S)	65	710-0892		Hex L-Wash. Hd. AB-Tap Scr. 1/4 x .62" Lg.
	746-0737		Control Cable—51" (Tecumseh)	66	710-1006		Hex Wash. Hd. Tap Scr. 3/8-16 x .75" Lg.
12	749-0539B		Upper Handle	67	710-0599		Hex Wash. Hd. Tap Scr. 1/4-20 x .5" Lg.
13	710-1205		Rope Guide	68	750-0736		Spacer .383" I.D.
14	736-0513		Spr. Wash. .89" I.D. (Used w/Keyed Adapter)	69	748-0358		Crankshaft Spacer (Keyed)
	736-0450		Bell-Wash. 1.01" I.D.—2 Req'd. (Used w/Splined Adapter) (B&S Engine)		748-0332		Crankshaft Spacer (Splined) (B&S Engine)
	736-0447		Wave Wash. 1" I.D.—2 Req'd. (Tec. Engine)		736-0409		Serr.-Wash. 1" I.D. (Tec. Engine)
15	710-1174		Curved Hd. Bolt 5/16-18 x 2"	70	756-0961		Pulley Half—Lower (Keyed)
16	736-0286		Bowed Washer	71	756-0962		Pulley Half—Upper (Keyed)
17	710-1055		Hex Bolt 3/8-24 x 1" Lg.		756-0502		Pulley Half—2 Req'd. (Used w/Splined Adapter)
18	726-0240		Cable Tie	72	742-0621	N	21" Blade
20	720-0276		Hand Knob	73	736-0452		Bell-Wash. .39" I.D. (Used w/Keyed Adapter)
21	749-0928	N	Lower Handle		736-0453		Bell-Wash. .46" I.D. (Used w/Splined Adapter)
23	736-0514		FI-Wash. .88" I.D. x 1.85" (Used w/Keyed Adapter)	74	710-1044		Hex Bolt 3/8-24 x 1.5" Lg. (Used w/Keyed Adapter)
24	736-0270		Bell-Wash. .265" I.D. x .75"		710-0757		Hex Bolt 7/16-20 x 1.5" Lg. (Used w/Splined Adapter)
25	731-0801		Bag Handle†	75	753-0484		Blade Adapter Kit (Keyed)
26	749-0764A		Rear Catcher Frame†		753-0485		Blade Adapter Kit (Splined)
27	764-0412		Front Catcher Frame†	76	736-0329		L-Wash. 1/4" I.D.*
28	735-0639		Spark Plug Boot (Optional)	77	712-0298		Hex Jam Nut 1/4-20 Thd.
29	—		Engine	78	710-0252		Hex Bolt 1/4-20 x .85" Lg.
30	731-1057		Control Cover Half—Upper	79	17013		Rear Belt Baffle
31	731-1058	N	Control Cover Half—Lower	80	710-0167		Carr. Bolt 1/4-20 x .50" Lg.*
32	731-0620		Control Lever	81	17006		Rear Panel Baffle
33	746-0711A		Drive Cable—51" Lg.	82	731-0931		Corner Plug
34	710-0841		Flat C-Sunk Hd. Tap Scr. #10 x .75" Lg.	83	710-1017		Torx Mach. AB-Tap Scr. 1/4 x .62" Lg.
35	731-1059		Cable Mtg. Cap	84	710-0352		Hex B-Tap Scr. 1/4 x .38" Lg.
36	731-0857A		Hardtop Bag Cover††	85	731-0669		Rear Flap
37	731-0856A	N	Hardtop Handle††	86	17008		Rear Chute Baffle
38	764-0252		Grass Bag††	87	14847		Retaining Strip
39	710-0166		Truss Mach. Scr. 1/4-20 x 1.0" Lg.	88	†		Hub Cap (Optional)
40	712-0241		Hex Nut 3/8-24 Thd.*	89	10622B		Plastic Spring
41	736-0463		FI-Wash. .281" I.D. x .62"††	90	748-0188B		Pawl .345" I.D.
42	712-0287		Hex Nut 1/4-20 Thd.*	91	712-0414		Weld Top L-Nut 1/4-20 Thd.
43	764-0411		Front Catcher Frame††	93	714-0115		Cotter Pin 1/8" Dia.
44	749-0736A		Rear Catcher Frame††	94	748-0318		Ratchet Wheel 1.62" O.D.
45	731-0859		Chute Deflector	95	738-0137		Shld. Bolt .342" Dia. x .268"
46	731-0970B		Deflector Plug	96	**		Wheel Ass'y. Comp.—Rear
47	731-0858		Seal—Extrusion	97	**		Bearing 1/2" I.D.
48	720-0223		Grip				
49	732-0580		Spring Lever				
50	732-0578B		Torsion Spring—R.H.				
51	732-0577B		Torsion Spring—L.H.				
52	750-0566		Spacer .255" I.D.				

**PARTS LIST FOR MODELS 460 THRU 479 ROTARY MOWERS (CONTINUED)**

REF. NO.	PART NO.	CODE	DESCRIPTION	REF. NO.	PART NO.	CODE	DESCRIPTION
98	750-0624		Shld. Spacer .50" Dia.	112	754-0346		V-Belt
99	710-0751		Hex Bolt 1/4-20 x .62" Lg. (Gr. 5)	113	720-0224		Grass Catcher Locking Knob
100	711-0805		Shld. Pin 3/8-24 x 1.43" Lg.	114	714-0104		Internal Cotter Pin 5/16" Dia.
101	16855		Pawl Plate	115	713-0353		#48 Chain .50" Pitch x 30 Links
102	17053A		Chain Cover Ass'y.	116	<del>618-0055</del> 717-0411	N	Transmission Comp. (See Breakdown)
103	741-0324		Hex Flange Brg. .506" I.D.	117	710-0892		Hex L-Wash. H.D. AB-Tap Scr. 1/4 x .62" Lg.††
104	736-0160		FI-Wash. .531" I.D. x .53"	118	710-1025		Hex AB-Tap Scr. #12 x 1.25" Lg.†
105	738-0719A		Rear Axle Ass'y.	119	764-0246		Grass Bag†
106	741-0522		Hex Flange Bearing	120	751-0568		Cable Clamp (B & S)
107	17009		Chain Axle Ass'y.	121	710-1237		Hex Self-Tap Scr. #10-32 x .62" Lg. (B & S)
108	736-0498		Internal L-Wash. 1/4" I.D.				
109	748-0190		Spacer .513" I.D.				
110	732-0481		Extension Spring 3.8" Lg.				
111	750-0589		Spacer .325" I.D.				

## Models 460 thru 479



**NOTE**

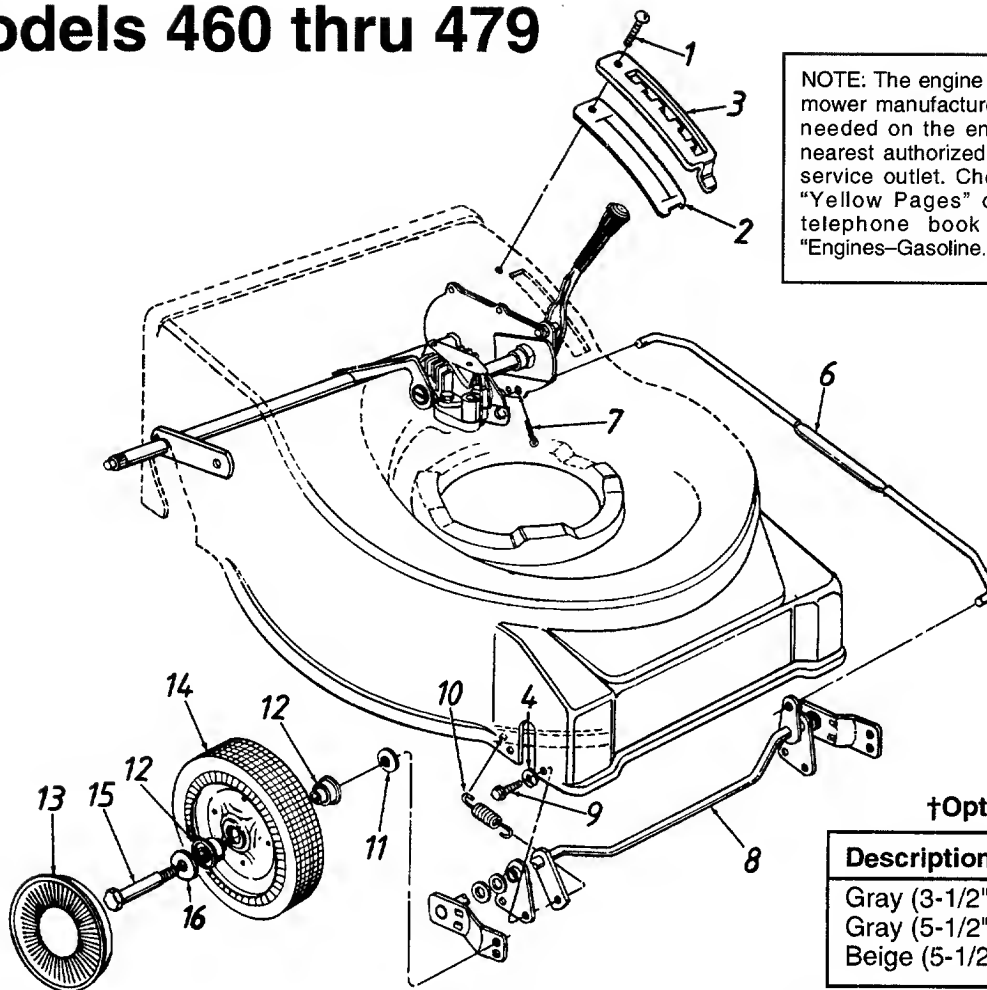
This instruction manual covers various models, and all specifications shown do not necessarily apply to your model. Specifications subject to change without notice or obligation.

**PARTS LIST FOR MODELS 460 THRU 479 ROTARY MOWERS**

REF. NO.	PART NO.	CODE	DESCRIPTION
1	710-1062		Hex Bolt 1/4-20 x 1.25" Lg. w/Patch
2	736-0329		L-Wash. 1/4" I.D.*
3	717-0418A		Upper Hsg. Half
4	713-0400		#48 Sprocket 7 Tooth x 1/2 Pitch
5	736-0336		FI-Wash. 5/8" I.D. x .030
6	741-0413		Hex Flange Brg. .631" I.D.
7	16500A		Hex Bearing Cup
8	736-0314		Thrust Wash. .382" I.D. x .70" O.D.
9	741-0479		Thrust Bearing .375" I.D. x .812" O.D.
11	717-1216		11 Tooth Pinion Shaft
12	748-0208A		Flange Bearing
13	721-0212		Oil Seal
15	756-0330A		FI-Pulley 5.06" O.D.†
16	736-0270		Bell-Wash. .265" I.D. x .75"†
17	712-0351		Hex L-Nut 1/4-28 L.H. Thd.†
18	738-0440		Shld. Spacer .375" Dia. x .170"†
19	736-0344		FI-Wash. .390" I.D. x 1.0"†
20	738-0826		Shld. Bolt .375" Dia. x .40"†
21	756-0558		FI-Idler Plastic 1.50" Dia.†
22	741-0556		Needle Brg. .375" x .31"†
23	736-0270		Bell-Wash. .265" I.D. x .75"†
24	17052A		Idler Brk't. Ass'y.†
25	712-0138		Hex Patch L-Nut 1/4-28 Thd.†
26	732-0357A		Extension Spring 1.12" Lg.†
27	717-0419A		Lower Hsg. Half
28	741-0415		Flange Bearing .566 Dia.
29	717-0422		33 Tooth Helical Gear
30	741-0414		Flange Bearing .629 Dia.
31	721-0213		Oil Seal .625 Dia.
32	738-0607		Gear Sprocket Shaft
33	736-0722		L-Wash. #10 I.D.
34	710-0436		Hex B-Tap Scr. #10 x .62"
35	736-0410		Hex Washer .26" x .88"†
—	<del>618-0055</del> 717-0411	N	Transmission Comp.

†Not Part of Transmission Complete

# Models 460 thru 479



NOTE: The engine is not under warranty by the mower manufacturer. . If repairs or service is needed on the engine, please contact your nearest authorized engine service outlet. Check the "Yellow Pages" of your telephone book under "Engines-Gasoline."



## †Optional Hub Caps

Description	Part No.
Gray (3-1/2" Dia.)	720-0249
Gray (5-1/2" Dia)	731-0981A
Beige (5-1/2" Dia.)	731-0982A

## PARTS LIST FOR MODELS 460 THRU 479 ROTARY MOWERS

REF. NO.	PART NO.	CODE	DESCRIPTION	REF. NO.	PART NO.	CODE	DESCRIPTION
1	710-1017		Torx Mach. AB-Tap Scr. 1/4 x .62" Lg.	10	732-0589		Extension Spring 2.39" Lg.
2	721-0216		Height Adjustment Support	11	736-0105		Bell-Wash. .380" I.D. x .88"
3	17323		Height Adjustment Plate	12	**		Ball Bearing 1/2" I.D.
4	736-0329		L-Wash. 1/4" I.D.*	13	†		Hub Cap (See Below)
6	747-0699		Height Adj. Connecting Rod	14	**		Wheel Ass'y. Comp.—Front
7	714-0507		Cotter Pin 3/32" Dia.	15	738-0102		Shld. Bolt .498" Dia. x 1.45"
8	17022		Front Axle Ass'y.	16	736-0504		Wave Wash. .51" I.D. x .78"
9	710-0352		Hex L-Wash. Hd. AB-Tap Scr. 1/4 x .38" Lg.				(Used w/Ball Bearings)

\*For faster service obtain standard nuts, bolts and washers locally.  
If these items cannot be obtained locally, order by part number  
and size as shown on parts list.

## †FRONT WHEEL CHART

Size	Tread Type	Front Wheels		Rear Wheels	
		Part No.	Bearings	Part No.	Bearings
8" x 1.75"	Bar Tread	634-0020	—	634-0020	—
8" x 2"	"S" Wave	734-1512A	—	734-1512A	—
8" x 2"	"S" Wave	734-1513B	741-0484 Ball Brg.	734-1510B	741-0486B Sleeve Brg.





# MANUFACTURER'S LIMITED WARRANTY

## THE MTD TWO YEAR SUPREME WARRANTY:

For **TWO YEARS** from the date of retail purchase within the United States of America, its possessions and territories, MTD PRODUCTS INC will, at its option, repair or replace, for the original purchaser, free of charge, any part or parts found to be defective in material or workmanship. This warranty covers units which have been operated and maintained in accordance with the owner's instructions furnished with the unit, and which have not been subject to misuse, abuse, commercial use, neglect, accident, improper maintenance or alteration. Normal wear parts or components thereof are subject to separate terms as noted below in the "NO FAULT Ninety Day Consumer Warranty" clause.

**NO FAULT Ninety Day Consumer Warranty on Normal Wear Parts:** All normal wear part failures will be covered on this product for a period of 90 days regardless of cause. After 90 days, but within the two year warranty period, normal wear part failures will be covered if caused by defects in material or workmanship of other component parts. Normal wear parts are defined as batteries, belts, blades, blade adapters, grass bags, rider deck wheels, seats and tires.

**How to Obtain Service:** Warranty service is available, with proof of purchase, through your local authorized service dealer or distributor. To locate the dealer or distributor in your area, please check the yellow pages or contact the Customer Service Department of MTD PRODUCTS INC, P.O. Box 368022, Cleveland, Ohio 44136-9722, phone (216) 225-7711. The return of a complete unit will not be accepted by the factory unless prior written permission has been extended by the Service Department of MTD PRODUCTS INC.

**Transportation Charges:** Transportation charges for the movement of any power equipment unit or attachment are the responsibility of the purchaser. Transportation charges for any part submitted for replacement under this warranty must be paid by the purchaser unless such return is requested in writing by MTD PRODUCTS INC.

**Units Exported Out of the United States:** MTD PRODUCTS INC does not extend any warranty for products sold or exported outside of the United States of America, its possessions and territories, except, those sold through MTD's authorized channels of export distribution.

### Other Warranties:

1. The engine or motor or component parts thereof carry separate warranties from their manufacturers. Please refer to the applicable manufacturer's warranty on these items.
2. Log splitter pumps, valves and cylinders or component parts thereof are covered by a one year warranty.
3. All other warranties, express or implied, including any implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose are hereby expressly disclaimed in their entirety.
4. The provisions as set forth in this warranty provide the sole and exclusive remedy of MTD PRODUCTS INC's obligations arising from the sale of its products. MTD PRODUCTS INC will not be liable for incidental or consequential loss or damage.

**How State Law Relates to This Warranty:** This limited warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state. Certain disclaimers are not allowed in some states and therefore they may not apply to you under all circumstances.

**Note:** This warranty does not cover routine maintenance items such as lubricants, filters, blade sharpening and tune-ups, or adjustments such as brake adjustments, clutch adjustments or deck adjustments. Nor does this warranty cover normal deterioration of the exterior finish due to use or exposure.

